

Idaho Public Utilities Commission

Case No. INT-G-13-01, Order No. 32709

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PUC approves Intermountain Gas request to sell LNG from Nampa facility **Power outage threatens natural gas supply in West Yellowstone, MT**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission today granted Intermountain Gas Company emergency authority to sell up to 100,000 gallons of liquefied natural gas from its Nampa LNG facility to aid residents of West Yellowstone, Montana, where anticipated shortages of LNG due to a power outage could leave residents without heating fuel.

Energy West, the natural gas distributor for West Yellowstone, notified Intermountain Gas on Thursday that its chief supplier has been shut down as the result of a power outage in southwestern Wyoming. "The outage, coupled with the current cold snap, leaves Energy West with difficulty finding alternate LNG sources," Intermountain Gas said in a letter to the Idaho commission. Energy West said it needs emergency supply to help it through the next four to six weeks.

Intermountain told the commission it has an adequate supply of LNG stored at its Nampa facility. Energy West has an LNG truck-trailer it can send to Nampa as soon as Intermountain Gas is granted commission authority to sell the gas.

Intermountain Gas does not have a rate schedule that allows it to sell LNG. But the company states it has been anticipating seeking such authority.

"Given the representations contained in the letters of Intermountain Gas and Energy West, we find that there is an emergency that necessitates the sale of LNG by Intermountain without a tariff," the commission said. "Although we recognize that Energy West does not serve Idaho customers, the commission does have the authority to declare an emergency if it finds there is an insufficient supply of energy that threatens the health, safety and welfare of citizens," the commission said.

The commission directed Intermountain to defer all related revenues and costs until Intermountain Gas files its tariff schedule.

Intermountain Gas customers will not bear any expenses related to the sale. In other gas supply contracts where there is an established tariff, customers share in the revenue the company receives from sale of surplus natural gas supply.

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